

States has grown by more than 40 percent. A growing population puts pressure on open spaces in two ways: First, more people want to enjoy the great outdoors so they need more space for it; second, more land is being used for other purposes—such as new subdivisions, shopping malls, office buildings, and more—which makes open space more scarce, especially in areas where most of us live. The demand for parks and open space is higher than ever before, especially for city parks, the parks down the street in which we walk, run and enjoy the outdoors.

How can we fund conservation efforts in the time of tight budgets? The Americans Outdoors Act of 2004, which Senator MARY LANDRIEU and I introduced in the Senate earlier this year, provides the answer.

The act provides a reliable stream of funding by collecting what we call a conservation royalty on revenues from drilling for oil and gas on offshore Federal lands. It uses this conservation royalty to fully fund three existing Federal programs. First, the State side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund is \$450 million annually. Second, the Wildlife Conservation Fund is \$350 million annually. And third, Urban Parks Initiatives is \$125 million annually. It also provides 500 million additional dollars each year for coastal impact assistance including wetlands protection.

This new conservation royalty is not such a new idea at all. It is modeled after the existing State royalty for onshore oil and gas drilling created in the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920. The act gives 50 cents of every dollar from drilling onshore—and in the case of Alaska, 90 cents out of every dollar—as a royalty to the State in which the drilling occurs.

In a similar way, our Americans Outdoors Act of 2004 would create a conservation royalty of about 25 percent for revenues of the funds collected from offshore drilling on Federal lands. Some of the royalty would go to States such as Texas where the drilling occurs. More would go to all States for parks, game and fish commissions, and projects funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The premise of this legislation is simple. If drilling for oil and gas creates an environmental impact, it makes sense to use some of the proceeds to create an environmental benefit. In 2001, the Federal Government received \$7.5 billion in oil and gas revenues from Federal offshore leases. This revenue comes from the Outer Continental Shelf which supplies more oil to the United States than any other country, including Saudi Arabia.

I mentioned at the beginning this was a bipartisan idea. I should mention one other President who was involved in this idea. His name was Ronald Reagan. In 1985, President Reagan asked me to chair the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors which looked ahead for a generation to try to

see what we could do now to help us—today, as it turns out, nearly 20 years later—to enjoy the great American outdoors. One of the major recommendations from President Reagan's Commission on Americans Outdoors was that we take some of the money from offshore oil drilling and devote it to wildlife preservation, to city parks, and to the State and Federal sides of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Senator LANDRIEU and I intend to add an amendment that includes the Federal side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund to our proposal.

Today, we celebrate 40 years of a good idea with a new suggestion for how to improve it: a conservation royalty on offshore revenues that we treat exactly the same way we have treated onshore revenues for 50 years. We give it to the States and to the Federal side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund for wildlife preservation and city parks.

Someone once said Italy has its art, England has its history, and the United States has the great American outdoors. Our magnificent land, as much as our love of liberty, is at the core of our character. It has inspired our pioneer spirit, our resourcefulness, and our generosity. Its greatness has fueled our individualism and our optimism and made us believe anything is possible. It has influenced our music, our literature, our science, and our language. It has served as our training ground for athletes and philosophers, of poets and defenders of American ideas.

So let us come together to conserve the great open spaces of our country for generations to come. That is why the generation before us—Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy and Johnson and Reagan—worked to establish the Land and Water Conservation Fund 40 years ago. That is why we should make sure it is fully funded today. The Americans Outdoors Act will do just that.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I understand that morning business is set to expire soon. I ask unanimous consent that period be extended so other Senators may speak during this extended period of morning business for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, to make sure I do not run out of time—my remarks may take a couple minutes more—I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for so much time as I may consume, not to exceed 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. Thank you, Mr. President.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE REYNALDO GUERRA GARZA

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Judge Reynaldo Guerra Garza, who passed away yesterday in Brownsville, TX, at the age of 89. Judge Garza was the first Mexican American to serve as a Federal district court judge and a Federal appellate judge. Today, I join my fellow Texans in mourning this loss, along with his wife of 65 years, Bertha Garza, and his five children. By any measure of Reynaldo Garza's stature in the community, he was a mountain of a man.

Reynaldo Garza was born in 1915 in Brownsville, TX, a first-generation American whose parents had fled civil unrest in Mexico. It was during the Depression when he decided to become a lawyer, so he worked as a laborer for the WPA to save money for tuition at the University of Texas.

He excelled in his studies at the University of Texas and developed a great many political friendships, including a longstanding friendship with then-congressional candidate Lyndon Baines Johnson. In 1939, he graduated from the University of Texas Law School and opened his own law office in Brownsville, TX. A solo firm was financially risky for such a green young lawyer, but Reynaldo Garza strongly believed he should practice law in his community, among his family and his friends.

Reynaldo Garza served for 4 years as a gunnery sergeant in World War II and returned to Brownsville with a growing reputation as a civic leader and a brilliant lawyer. He was invited to join the largest firm in town as a partner, where he practiced commercial and insurance law for more than a decade.

When a Federal judicial vacancy came up in 1961, President John F. Kennedy nominated Reynaldo Garza to fill the seat with broad support from the Texas leadership. After being confirmed, Judge Garza plowed through a heavy 2-year backlog of cases in exceptional time. As his profile grew, Judge Garza became a symbol for many young, hard-working Hispanics to pursue their goals of leadership within the legal, business, and social community, blazing a trail for others to follow.

Those in Brownsville, TX, who saw Judge Garza as a model to follow included a junior high school student named Juliet Garcia, who became the first Mexican-American woman president of a university, and a young attorney, Federico Pena, who was to become U.S. Transportation Secretary.

Garza wrote:

I've always said I hope I got the appointment because I was qualified, not because I was Mexican American. But I knew I had to do a good job or else my actions would reflect not only my ability, but also that of other Mexican Americans.

It was in December of 1976 when President-elect Jimmy Carter called